

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A multimedia system, comprising:

a bulk decoder coupled to a network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder decoding data received from the network and transmitting the decoded data to ~~an~~ the network data interconnect; and

an output device coupled to the network data interconnect for accepting the decoded data, the decoded data being transmitted from the decoder via the network data interconnect.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the bulk decoder comprises:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer; and

a multiplexer coupled to the at least one decoder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 2, further comprising a processor coupled between the network and the network data interconnect for converting data in various data formats into data represented by one protocol.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a desktop unit.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a storage.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network and the network data interconnect.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A network system, comprising:
a server coupled to a network;
a bulk decoder coupled to the network and a data network interconnect, the bulk decoder configured to receive ~~receiving~~ a signal from the network, the bulk decoder being controlled by the server, the bulk decoder including,
a processor, the processor capable of receiving the signal from the network, the processor further capable of converting the signal into a single protocol format signal when the signal includes intermixed data types; and
at least one device coupled to the network data interconnect, ~~the bulk decoder for~~ ~~accepting~~ the device configured to accept a decoded signal from the decoder, the signal being transmitted from the decoder via the network data interconnect.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The network system of claim 7, wherein the bulk decoder further includes:

at least one decoder for decoding the signal from the network.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The network system of claim 8, further comprising:

a demultiplexer coupled between the network and the processor and the at least one decoder for demultiplexing the signal; and

a multiplexer coupled to the processor and the at least one decoder for multiplexing the decoded signal.

Claim 10 (original): The network system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network and distributing decoded signals to corresponding output devices through ~~an~~ a network data interconnect, comprising:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

a multiplexer coupled to the central processor; and

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer and the multiplexer.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The bulk decoder of claim 11, further comprising a processor for converting signals received from the network having ~~in~~-various data ~~formats~~ types into single protocol format signals.

Claim 13 (original): The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises a video processor.

Claim 14 (original): The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises an audio processor.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for sharing decoding resources in a network system, comprising:

transmitting a signal to a network;

decoding the signal using a bulk decoder coupled to the network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder being capable of decoding the signal into single data type signals having single protocol format signals; and
transmitting decoded data to ~~an~~ the network data interconnect.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising controlling the bulk decoder using a server coupled to the network.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein when the signal comprises intermixed data signals, the operation of decoding includes:

demultiplexing the signal to obtain individual data signals;
decoding the individual data signals; and
multiplexing the decoded individual data signals.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting the multiplexed decoded individual data signals to corresponding output devices coupled to the network data interconnect.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising representing the decoded individual data signals by one protocol.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising dynamically adjusting the number of bulk decoders coupled to the network in accordance with a system load.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A multimedia system, comprising:

a bulk decoder coupled to a network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder configured to decode data received from the network and transmit decoded data to ~~an~~ the network data interconnect, the bulk decoder being capable of converting data received from the network in various data types ~~formats~~ into data represented by a single protocol format, the bulk decoder further being capable of transmitting decoded data to the network data interconnect; and

an output device coupled to the network data interconnect for accepting the decoded data transmitted via the network data interconnect.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network and distributing decoded signals to corresponding output devices through ~~an~~ a network data interconnect, comprising:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

a multiplexer coupled to the central processor;

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer and the multiplexer; and

a processor for converting signals from the network including various data types ~~formats~~ into single protocol format signals.